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MONTHLY BULLETIN

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

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PRBO biologists on Southeast Farallon Is. — April 12, 1970
Photo by Val DaCosta

PRBO PLANS FOR SOUTHEAST FARALLON

In February and April Point Reyes Bird Observatory invited a group of representatives from public agencies and academic institutions to visit the Southeast Farallon island. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which controls the Farallon Wildlife Refuge, the National Park Service, and the California Department of Fish and Game were represented. Professors and graduate students came from the University of California (Berkeley and Los Angeles), Stanford, and Sacramento State College.

PRBO biologists report that fishermen have been **shooting** at the Farallon Islands almost every night.

The PRBO *Newsletter* points out that the Observatory must raise about $20,000 just to maintain a station on the island. More financial support will be needed to expand the research program. PRBO needs endowments as well as more immediate funds for operations. Dr. Binford (phone 221-5100, ext. 76) would like to hear from members willing to make personal approaches to likely donors. Write to Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Palo Marin Ranch, Mesa Rd., Bolinas, CA 94924.

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

The "Kodiak Oil Smear" soaked that island chain along some 1,000 miles of coastline in February and March. Wildlife officials estimated some 10,000 dead seabirds and innumerable oil-matted seals and sea lions—then stopped counting. These damages and causes were summarized in the May 1st issue of the National Wildlife Federation's *Conservation News.*

Secretary Hickel dispatched Commisioner David Dominick of the Federal Water Quality Administration to investigate, assisted by State of Alaska officials. Their findings indicated that the "most probable source of oil contamination in the Kodiak area came from the oil-contaminated ballast or tank washings discharged by commercial tankers en route to terminal facilities in Cook Inlet."

Although the International Convention of 1954 prohibits the discharge of ballast inside a 50-mile limit, this is often ineffectual because it may wash ashore this distance. Or, ships' captains may claim to discharge 'clean ballast" inside the 50-mile limit, and who is around to report what such flushings really contain? So, we must watch from a distance such 'minor" maritime oil disasters even before a super-tanker from the new Alaskan oil fields cracks up—or the ruptures in a new super-pipeline destroy vast areas of tundra. No wonder our Canadian friends view this Arctic oil bonanza with apprehension!

Speaking of water pollution—much closer to home—more and more investigators are predicting another Lake Erie in our Delta and North Bay if the State Water Plan with the Peripheral Canal and the San Luis Drain are completed as planned. The latest critical report on the Peripheral Canal is expected to be released from the U.S. Geographic Survey—but at this date only some "leaks" from the report indicate its nature. Your Conservation Chairman has also read Mr. Gianelli's glowing releases on the benefits of the Peripheral Canal, which he claims will save the

Delta from its present deterioration! But the mere fact that it is needed to get that additional 10% of water to the Los Angeles Basin is enough to condemn it right now—in view of population problems there.

We must admit to being shocked by recent House approval of the SST (supersonic transport) against the adverse recommendations of President Nixon's environmental experts—and the feelings of a few million other Americans. Must we still buy "prestige" in the aeronautics world while coughing and crying in smog and shuddering at supersonic booms?

New "For Sale" signs posted on old established Pt. Reyes Seashore ranch properties as viewed on a May tour convinced us there was logic in Secretary Hickel's recent appeal for an increased Land and Water Conservation Fund. He also expressed his feeling that — "We have got to keep our authorizations and appropriations parallel so that we can pay for recreation areas at the same time we select them. The practice of simply authorizing new Federal recreation areas without the money to pay for them has left us sitting on a backlog of 'parks' that exist only on paper, while their cost skyrockets."

Now, a word for readers setting off on vacation trips. Remember, while you are having fun in the out-of-doors, it is your duty to admonish or report those you find abusing or desecrating it. It is also your duty-and your own gain—to enlist friends who will join our conservation causes and write letters to win or preserve open spaces. Attend guided trips and campfire programs and preach everywhere! Talk to park personnel and learn their problems! They need your help!

—PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*

AUDUBON CONSERVATIONISTS HONORED

Paul Covel, Golden Gate Audubon Conservation Chairman and Oakland Park Naturalist, received a special plaque on May 8 from the State Parks and Recreation Commission honoring his 40 years of conservation work.

Josh Barkin, Golden Gate Audubon President and East Bay Regional Parks Naturalist, received a special conservation award from the California Conservation Council at their Berkeley meeting last fall.

Elizabeth Terwilliger, Marin Audubon field trip leader, received a 1970 *Holiday* Award for a Beautiful America in recognition of her conservation activities.

PELAGIC TRIP AUGUST 29

On **Saturday, August 29,** Golden Gate Audubon Society will have a boat trip off Monterey to observe pelagic birds and mammals. Fare: $7 per person. Make your check payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society and send it to Mrs. Valeria G. DaCosta, 2090 Pacific Ave., San Francisco 94109, with a *stamped, self-addressed* envelope enclosed. The reservations deadline will be **August 10** (or earlier if the boat is filled). We have only one boat and therefore Audubon members will be given preference in reservations. Details about departure time and place will be sent with acknowledgement. We shall schedule another boat trip on **October 3.** The September *Gull* will give details.—MRS. VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman*

Golden Gate Audubon Officers elected at the June dinner: **President** Joshua Barkin, **Vice President** Mrs. Richard Johnson, **Vice President** George Peyton, **Treasurer** Edward Ormondroyd, **Recording Secretary** Mrs. John Bang, **Corresponding Secretary** Mrs. Raymond Higgs, **Director** Mrs. Leonard Machlis.

Meetings and field trips (except pelagic) will not be held in July and August.

AUDUBON NATURE TRAINING CONCLUDES 6th YEAR

As Audubon Nature Training concludes its sixth year, *very special thanks* go to our wonderful corps of 40 volunteers, who perform numerous important jobs. These include registering students, maintaining the library, conducting workshop sessions,preparing displays and instructional material, filing, bookkeeping, and handling correspondence, publicity and photography. Basic to all these functions is the teaching itself, and in addition to Phyllis Lindley, we now have four other instructors: Aida Brenneis, Joan Byrens, Margaret Lacrampe, and Marie Lowell. Golden Gate Audubon Society is most appreciative of the wonderful job you are doing, and the important contribution you are making to conservation education. The public you serve has also expressed its enthusiastic appreciation of your help to them.

The Golden Gate Audubon chapter and the Nature Training Program now have a new office at 1749 Grove St., Berkeley 94709, adjacent to the National Audubon Educational Services office. All mail for Golden Gate and Nature Training should be sent to the above address. The phone number is 549-1038. We already have Nature Training graduates and other volunteers to staff the office part time. This new location will also serve as a meeting place for regional Audubon members and for their display material. If you can donate office furniture, files, desks, chairs, etc. please call Vice President Claire Johnson—533-7118. Blue chip and green stamps will also be helpful.

Dr. Albert Boles reports that the Audubon Nature Training Program received a special gift *from Robin A. Magowan, Jr.* and a memorial gift honoring Dr. Mortimer Erskine *from Mr. and Mrs. William Kaye.*

OUTDOOR BIOLOGY CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

The University of California Botanical Garden has scheduled outdoor biology classes for children who have completed their 4th, 5th, and 6th grade education. The program will consist of three 3-week sessions from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. **beginning July 6.** Enrollment will be limited to 20 children in each class at a fee of $25 per child. The classes will include principles of plant growth and reproduction, soil structure, gardening, general plant care, environmental relationships and man's dependency on plants. For information please telephone Mr. Leonard Askham, Education Coordinator for the Garden—642-3343.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON RETURNS

"That 'accidental' Yellow-crowned Night Heron is becoming a periodic visitor at Chicken Point in San Rafael. In 1968 it appeared on July

12 and stayed 45 days; in 1969 it appeared on July 14 and stayed 45 days! But also in 1969 I saw it, once only, on May 3; and now in 1970 I have seen it, and photographed it, on May 10. When visiting Marin the Yellow-crowned Night Heron stays with relatives—Black-crowned Night Herons, Common Egrets, Snowy Egrets—nesting on the smaller of the Marin Islands, off the mouth of San Rafael Canal, and it relishes the tasty tide-pool crablets of Chicken Point."—AUBREY BURNS in Marin Audubon *Redwood Log.*

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

On May 8 *Calliope* Hummingbirds were chasing Allen's Hummers near the Laurel Canyon fire road in Tilden Park. When Jeff Wyles, a student at Cal State-Hayward, fastened an Anna's Hummingbird model to the top of a dead shrub, Calliope, Rufous and Allen's Hummers flew in to investigate it. MacGillivray's Warbler sang in full view from a willow near Laurel Creek. Lazuli Buntings flew into Baccharis shrubs on both sides of Laurel Canyon. Bullock's Orioles were disputing nesting territory around the Little Farm. In spite of rain and fog, the Tilden Nature Area was alive with song. We enjoyed a "dawn chorus" all morning. The most conspicuous singers were some virtuoso Black-headed Grosbeaks. Joining the *chorus* were California Quail, Mourning Doves, Western and Olive-sided Flycatchers, Western Wood Pewees, Wrentits, House and Bewick's Wrens, California Thrasher, Robins, Swainson's Thrushes, Cedar Waxwings, Warbling Vireos, Orange-crowned, MacGillivray's and Wilson's Warblers, Redwinged Blackbirds, Bullock's Orioles, Purple and House Finches, American and Lesser Goldfinches, Pine Siskins, Rufous-sided Towhees, Oregon Juncos, and Song Sparrows.—VI HOMEM, *Leader.*

Harry and Betty Adamson led a successful field trip to Mt. Diablo State Park on May 9. We enjoyed good views of *Black-chinned, Sage,* and *Rufous-crowned Sparrows* near the South toll gate and they were all singing. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Lazuli Buntings also were easy to see in this area.—VAL DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman.*

OBSERVATIONS CALENDAR

May 2—Western Tanager in terrace of Oakland Museum—Paul Covel.

May 2—Hooded Oriole nesting in palm tree near El Cerrito Plaza.

May 10—*Yellow-crowned* Night Heron on San Rafael waterfront—Aubrey Burns.

May 12—Hermit Warbler in Digger Pine on Deer Flat trail, Mt. Diablo.

May 17—Wandering Tattler, Bodega Bay Marine Station—Diane Daly.

May 20—Hermit Warbler at Welch Creek, Sunol Park—Florence Richardson.

May 24—Shearwaters flying near S.F. Cliff House and Seal Rocks—G & V Homem.

May 24—Bonaparte's Gull with broken wing at Bolinas Lagoon—James Schilt.